ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus are disclosed using a random indication to map items to paths and to recirculate or delay the sending of a particular item when a destination over its mapped path is unreachable, including, but not limited to the context of sending of packets across multiple paths in a packet switching system. In one implementation, a set of items is buffered, with the set of items including a first and second sets of items. The items in the first set of items are forwarded over a set of paths in a first configuration. The set of paths is reconfigured into a second configuration, and the items in the second set of items are forwarded over the set of paths in the second configuration. In one implementation, a recirculation buffer is used to hold items not immediately sent. In one implementation, the paths are reconfigured in a random fashion.